

## **Work Session**

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 6:00 PM

Board Assembly Room, 1250 West Broadway Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55411

1) **Call to Order and Roll Call**

2) **Topics and Discussions**

2)a. Early Literacy Board Report

2)b. MPS Student Experience and School  
Transformation

3) **Adjournment**

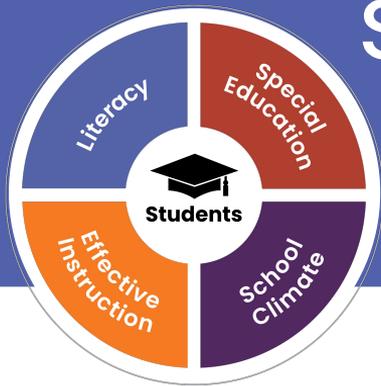


# Early Literacy Board Report

January 20, 2025

# Early Literacy:

What we are doing to support it and improve student outcomes



# What does early literacy instruction look like in MPS?

- University of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI) Implementation
- LETRS and CORE
- Literacy Specialists & Reading Corps
- Language Comprehension

# UFLI Curriculum

- Explicit Phonics Instruction
- Systematic Scope and Sequence
- Decodable Texts and Reading Practice
- Checks for Understanding
- Targeted support for Multilingual Learners and students with IEPs

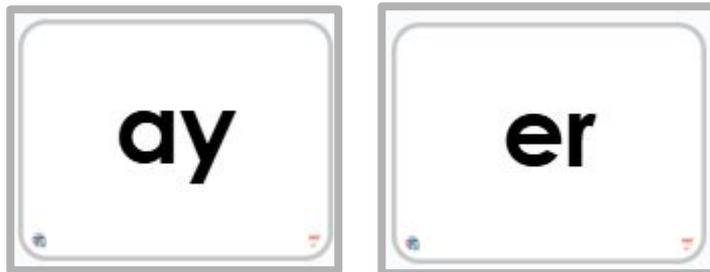


# UFLI Curriculum in Action

## Phonemic Awareness



## Visual Drill



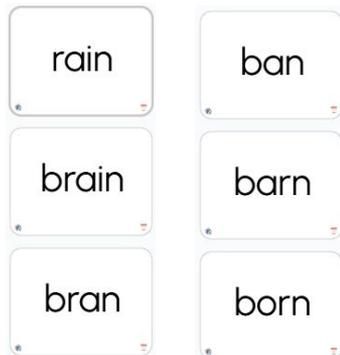
## Auditory Drill



## New Concept



## Blending Drill



# Professional Development: LETRS and CORE

- Science of Reading PD
  - Language Essentials of Teaching of Reading and Spelling
  - Consortium on Reaching Excellence in Education.
- Supports explicit, structured instruction
- Use Data and Small-Group Instruction
- Strengthens Instructional Decisions



# LETRS in Action



Sound Walls

Systematic Instruction

Phonemic Awareness



Unit 3 Session 2

Unit 4 Session 8

Unit 2 Session 2

# Language Comprehension Curriculum

## The Simple View of Reading

Word Recognition  $\times$  Language Comprehension = Reading Comprehension

THE *Daily*  
ALPHABET



# Timeline of ELA Steering Committee

- The committee was formed and meetings started in December
- Membership includes caregivers, community members and the following staff: teachers, English Language Development, Dual Language Immersion, Special Education, principals, and central office.
- The ELA Steering Committee will deliver a recommendation in April
- Initial adoption for early adopters will be in the fall

# Literacy Specialists



**Jenny Bauer**  
Literacy Specialist  
Dowling Elementary  
Hiawatha Elementary



**Angela Cruz**  
Literacy Specialist  
Hmong International  
Academy

# Leadership Professional Development

# Principal Professional Development

## Literacy Instructional Leadership

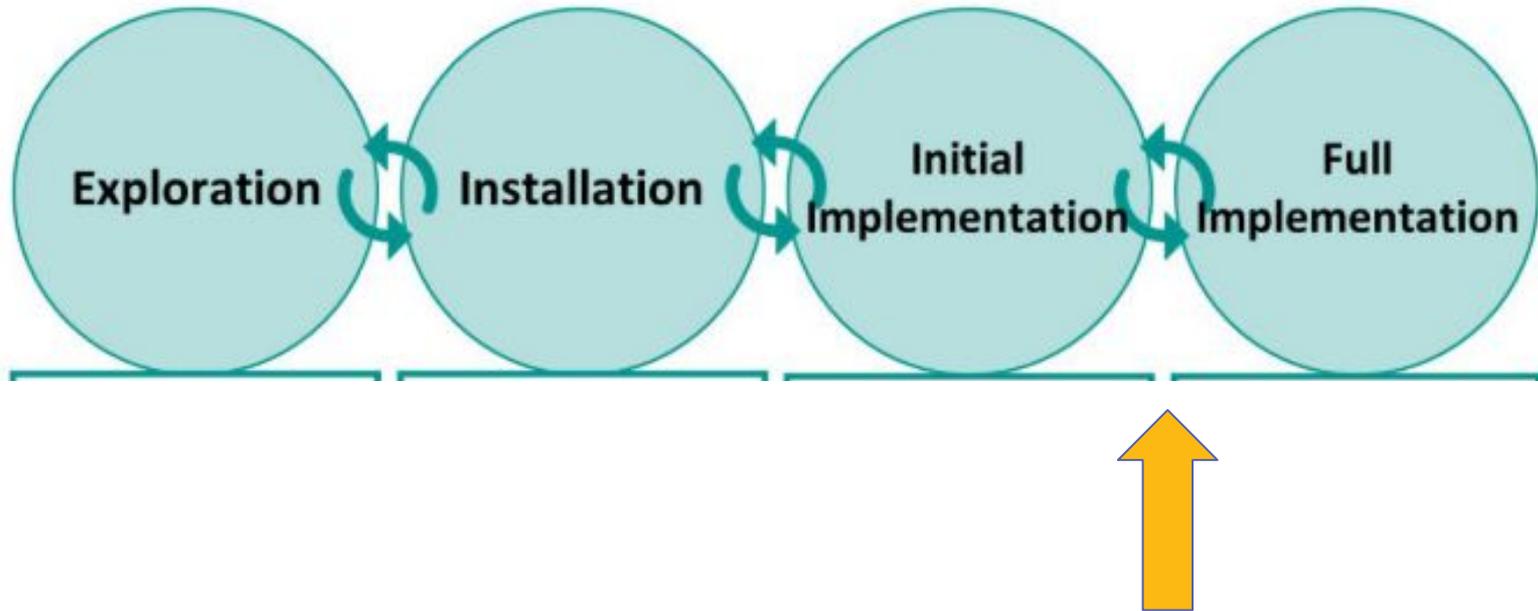
### Scope and Sequence Examples:

- K-5
  - UFLI Observations & Look-Fors
  - Data Driven UFLI Decisions
- 6-12
  - Literacy in the Content Areas
  - Training in the Science of Reading

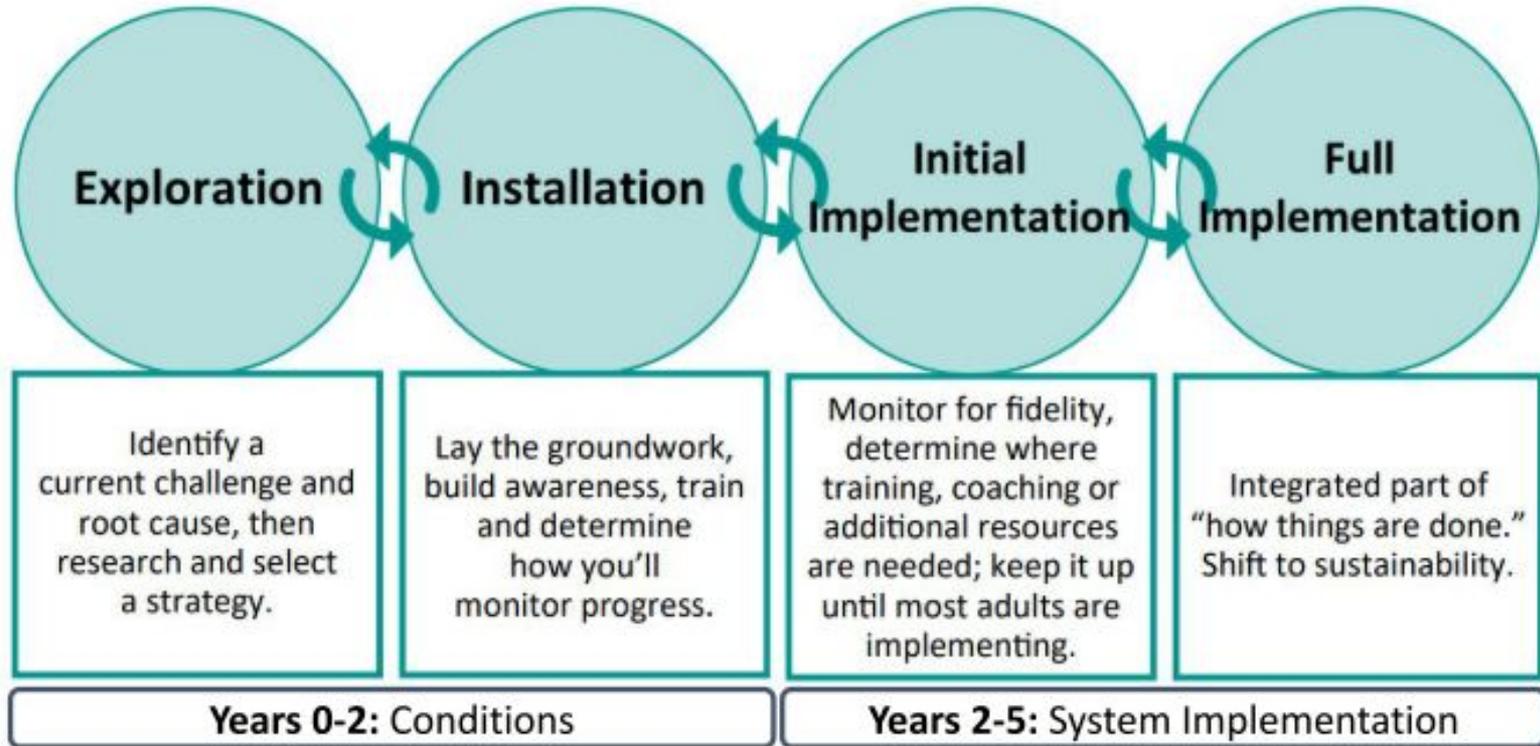


**MTSS (Multi Tiered  
System of Support)  
Department:  
Supporting Early Literacy**

# School Improvement Specialists: Curriculum Implementation



# School Improvement Specialists: Curriculum Implementation



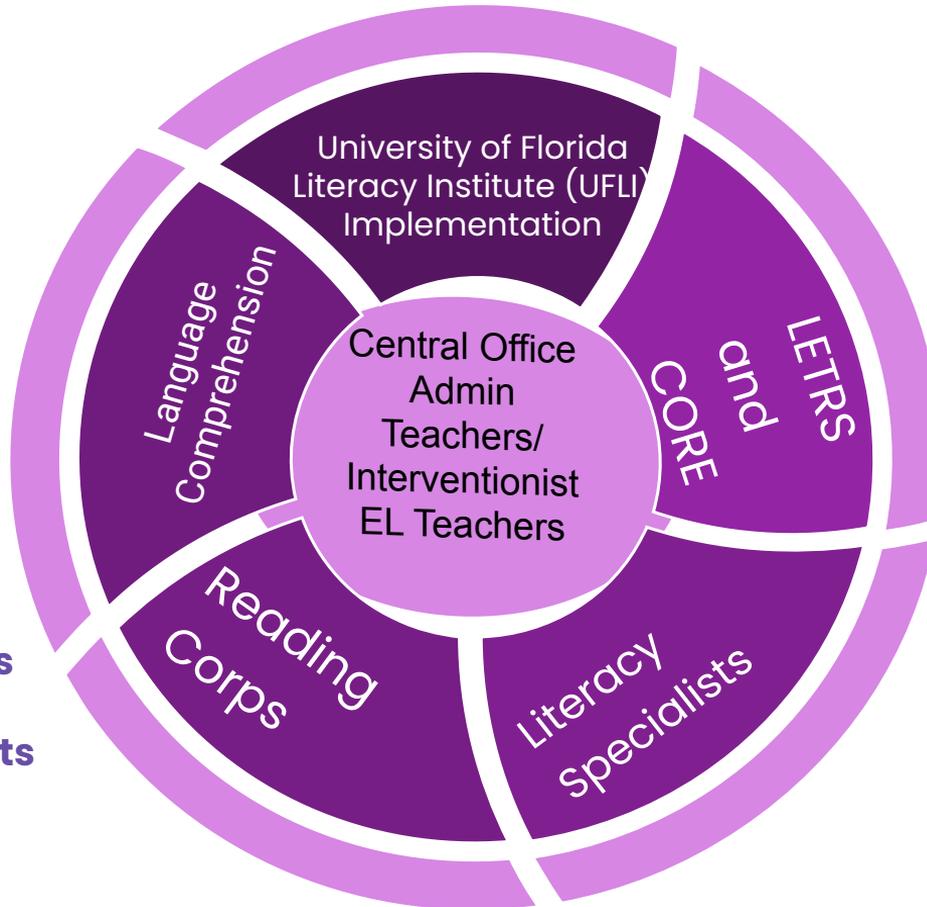
# What does early literacy look like in an MPS elementary school?

# Nellie Stone Johnson - Creating a Climate of Learning

**UFLI-Creating schedules and systems to Support Implementation**

**LETRS and CORE**  
Every 1st Monday of the month we convene as a team and cohorts discuss LETRS training and complete documentation.

**Reading Corp supports literacy by providing intervention to students not yet at grade level.**

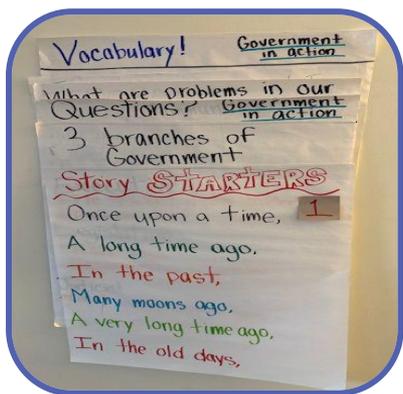


**Literacy Specialist and School Improvement Specialist support literacy with PD planning, look-fors and Co-Teaching and modeling which support implementation.**

**Language Comprehension is supported through our Benchmark Curriculum**

# Nellie Stone Johnson - Artifacts of our Learning

|        |   |   |   |        |   |        |
|--------|---|---|---|--------|---|--------|
| Stukel | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3      | 5 | 4      |
| Stukel | 2 | 3 | 0 | 5      | 8 | 4      |
| Stukel | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3      | 6 |        |
| Stukel | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3      | 5 | absent |
| Stukel | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5      | 7 | 4      |
| Stukel | 1 | 2 | 0 | absent |   | absent |
| Stukel | 2 | 3 | 2 | 5      | 8 | absent |
| Stukel | 0 | 1 | 2 | 5      | 5 | 4      |
| Stukel | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5      | 8 | 4      |
| Stukel | 3 | 5 | 3 | 5      | 7 | 4      |



# Discussion & Questions



# School Transformation: The MPS Student Experience

# Transformation Resolution Update

| Physical space  | Programming  | Enrollment   | Engagement  |
|---|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cost/benefit analysis for physical changes</li><li>• School/site closures</li><li>• Repurposing existing buildings</li><li>• Feasibility for inclusive special education spaces</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Impacts on class sizes and programming</b></li><li>• <b>K-8 advantages and challenges</b></li><li>• School, site, and program consolidation</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strategies to increase enrollment (lower class size, more music + arts, etc.)</li><li>• Strategies to attract new families (dual language, IB, etc.)</li><li>• Academic pathways and sustainable enrollment strategy</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Creative community engagement (door knocking, events)</li><li>• Area meeting structures</li><li>• Direct collaboration with impacted groups (not consultants)</li></ul> |

**Note:** We continue to work toward fulfilling the directives outlined in the Oct. 14, 2025 resolution with a deadline of April 2026.

# The MPS Student Experience

# Ensuring the Core – The foundation for all students

## THE CORE



Math

Science

English Language Arts

Social Studies

The Arts

Personal Finance

Physical Education &  
Health

**Each MPS graduate** is both **academically prepared** for their post-secondary path and has the **skills** necessary to successfully navigate an information rich, culturally diverse world.

# Overview of Individual learning needs

## THE CORE



### Enrichment

- Opportunities to go deeper and extend learning
- Advanced challenges and interest-based exploration

### Intervention

- Targeted support to stay on track
- Responsive instruction based on student progress

### Special Education

- Instruction aligned to IEP goals
- Accommodations and specialized support within core learning

### English Learner Services

- Language support embedded in classroom instruction
- Development of academic language skills

# Beyond the Core – Opportunities & Experiences

The **opportunities** and **experiences** for students to choose their individualized path that creates a sense of pride in themselves as they prepare to be contributing adult citizens



## Ethnic Studies and Social Emotional Learning

### THE CORE

- Math
- Science
- English Language Arts
- Social Studies
- The Arts
- Personal Finance
- Physical Education & Health

### BEYOND THE CORE

- Career connected learning K-12
- Early college credit
- Advanced Academics
- International Baccalaureate
- Dual Language
- Athletics
- Clubs

# MPS Student Experience Across Levels

# Alex's MPS Experience



**Elementary**  
Age 6



**Middle**  
Age 11



**High**  
Age 17

# Elementary

# Alex's ELEMENTARY Experience



Alex begins his MPS journey in elementary school, building a strong foundation supported by the Core and Social Emotional Learning across the school day.

## Core Instruction

Alex's day centers on the academic foundation that every MPS student experiences:

- Math
- Science
- English Language Arts
- Social Studies

## Specialist Experiences

In addition to core classroom instruction, Alex learns with at least three specialists, supporting whole-child development, for example:

- The Arts
- Physical Education
- Health

## Optional Magnet Experience

The magnet experience expands on core and specialist classes by providing them through a thematic lens:

- Core instruction
- Specialist experiences
- Magnet-themed learning

# Individual Learning Supports



**MPS recognizes that students learn in different ways and at different times.**

When Alex needs additional support or challenge, services are provided within the core experience, helping him stay on track, go deeper, and remain connected to his classroom and school community.

## **Enrichment**

- Opportunities to go deeper and extend learning
- Advanced challenges and interest-based exploration

## **Intervention**

- Targeted support to stay on track
- Responsive instruction based on student progress

## **Special Education**

- Instruction aligned to IEP goals
- Accommodations and specialized support within core learning

## **English Learner Services**

- Language support embedded in classroom instruction
- Development of academic language skills

# Designing a School for the MPS Student Experience

## Elementary School

### Student Experience

**Homeroom**  
Math, Science,  
English Language Arts  
and Social Studies

#### Specialists

The Arts, Physical  
Education, IB PYP,  
Magnet theme,  
Montessori

### Just Right Staffing

**Predictable**

**Stable**

**Guaranteed  
MPS student  
experience**

### Class size

#### Class size caps

$\geq 70\%$  FRL: 20 to 24  
students per  
homeroom

$< 70\%$  FRL: 24 to 29  
students per  
homeroom

# School Size Required to Ensure MPS Student Experience

## K-5 School

### Requirements

#### Class size caps

**>=70% FRL:**  
20 to 24 student  
per homeroom

**<=70% FRL:**  
24 to 29 student  
per homeroom

**At least 3 specialists**

**Magnet theme**

### Community School 3 homerooms per grade

**>=70% FRL:**  
360 to 408 students

**<=70% FRL:**  
432 to 477 students

### Magnet School\* Average >3 homerooms per grade

**>=70% FRL:**  
424 to 544 students

**<=70% FRL:**  
485 to 795 students

\* Nature of specific programming and grade-level progression patterns will create unique enrollment variations between magnet schools.

# Middle

# Alex's MIDDLE school Experience



Alex's day centers on the academic core, focused on rigorous learning aligned to state standards and strengthening SEL skills through Advisory.

## Core Instruction

- Math
- Science
- English Language Arts
- Social Studies
- The Arts
- **Physical Education & Health**
- **Advisory**

## Exploratory

Exploratory classes are beyond the core learning experiences that help students develop their passions and interests as they continue their individualized learning path through MPS.

- World Language • IB: Design courses • AVID
- School specific exploratory classes

## Optional Magnet Experience

The magnet experience expands on core and exploratory classes by providing them through a thematic lens:

- Core instruction
- Exploratory courses
- Magnet-themed learning

# Individual Learning Supports



**MPS recognizes that students learn in different ways and at different times.**

When Alex needs additional support or challenge, services are provided within the core experience and as supplemental instruction, helping him stay on track, go deeper, and remain connected to his classroom and school community.

## **Enrichment**

- Opportunities to go deeper and extend learning
- Advanced challenges and interest-based exploration

## **Intervention**

- Targeted support to stay on track
- Responsive instruction based on student progress

## **Special Education**

- Instruction aligned to IEP goals
- Accommodations and specialized support within core learning

## **English Learner Services**

- Language support embedded in classroom instruction
- Development of academic language skills

# Designing a School for the MPS Student Experience

## Middle School

### Student Experience

**The Core**  
Advisory, Math, Science,  
English Language Arts,  
Social Studies, **The Arts (2)**,  
PE/Health

**Beyond the Core**  
IB Design, World Language,  
AVID, Magnet theme

### Just Right Staffing

**Predictable**

**Stable**

**Guaranteed MPS  
student experience**

### Class size

#### **Class size caps**

$\geq 70\%$  FRL: 33  
students class size

$< 70\%$  FRL: 36  
students class size

# School Size Required to Ensure MPS Student Experience

## 6-8 School

### Requirements

#### Class size caps

**>=70% FRL:**  
33 student class

**<=70% FRL:**  
36 student class

Advisory, Math, Science, English Language Arts,  
Social Studies, The Arts (2), PE/Health

IB: Design, World Language, Magnet theme,  
Intervention, Enrichment, EL, Special Education  
services, AVID, School specific exploratory courses

#### School Size - 6 period day (LIMITED access to options in RED)

**>=70% FRL:**  
Min of 594 students

**<=70% FRL:**  
Min of 648 students

#### School Size - 7 period day (FULL access to options in RED and more)

**>=70% FRL:**  
Min of 693 students

**<=70% FRL:**  
Min of 756 students

**K-8**

# Alex's K-8 School Student Experience



Alex begins his MPS journey in a K-8 school, building a strong foundation supported by the Core and Social Emotional Learning across the school day in the elementary years and adding exploratory classes in the middle school years.

## Core Instruction

Alex's day centers on the academic foundation that every MPS student experiences:

- Math
- Science
- English Language Arts
- Social Studies
- The Arts
- Physical Education & Health

## Specialists & Exploratory

In a K-8 school the specialist and exploratory courses are experienced through the magnet theme lens.

# Individual Learning Supports



**MPS recognizes that students learn in different ways and at different times.**

When Alex needs additional support or challenge, services are provided within the core experience and as supplemental instruction helping him stay on track, go deeper, and remain connected to his classroom and school community.

## **Enrichment**

- Opportunities to go deeper and extend learning
- Advanced challenges and interest-based exploration

## **Intervention**

- Targeted support to stay on track
- Responsive instruction based on student progress

## **Special Education**

- Instruction aligned to IEP goals
- Accommodations and specialized support within core learning

## **English Learner Services**

- Language support embedded in classroom instruction
- Development of academic language skills

# Designing a School for the MPS Student Experience

## K-8 School

### Student Experience

#### Elementary Homeroom

Math, Science, English  
Language Arts, Social  
Studies

#### Middle Core

**Advisory**, Math, Science, English  
Language Arts, Social Studies,  
**The Arts (2)**, PE/Health

#### Specialists & Exploratory

The Arts, Physical Education, **Magnet theme**

### Class size caps

#### Elementary

(per homeroom)  
>=70% FRL: 20 to 24  
<70% FRL: 24 to 29

#### Middle

>=70% FRL: 33  
<70% FRL: 36

# School Size Required to Ensure MPS Student Experience

## K-8 School

|                     | <b>Grades K-5</b>              | <b>Grades 6-8<br/>6 period day</b> |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>&gt;=70% FRL</b> | <b>424 to 544<br/>students</b> | <b>Minimum of 594<br/>students</b> |
| <b>&lt;=70%FRL</b>  | <b>485 to 795<br/>students</b> | <b>Minimum of 648<br/>students</b> |

### **Total Enrollment**

Note: Additional students would need to be introduced at 6th grade or overall enrollment in the grades leading up to 6th would need to be increased in order to offer holistic middle school experience. If not, program would not be independently financially stable.

**Min of 1,018 students**

**Min of 1,133 students**

# High School

# Alex's HIGH school Experience



Alex chooses his path through the MPS high school experience. His journey begins with the academic core—credit-bearing instruction aligned to Minnesota state standards. His progress toward an MPS diploma and becoming a contributing adult is supported by opportunities beyond the core.

## Core Instruction

- Math
- Science
- English Language Arts
- Social Studies
- The Arts
- Physical Education & Health
- **Personal Finance**
- **Ethnic Studies**

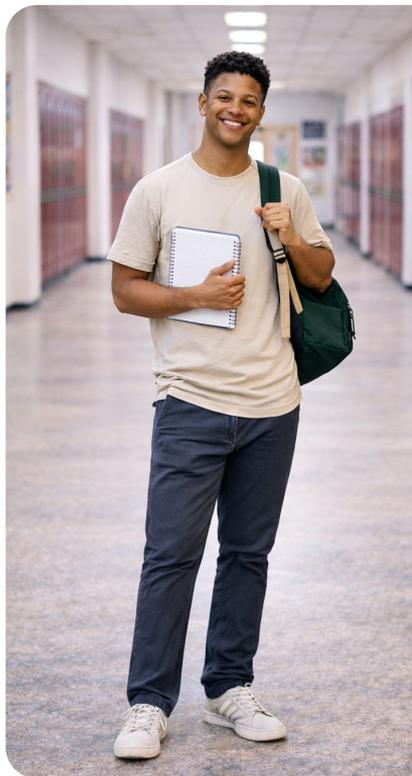
## Electives

- World Language
- AVID
- Core content area classes beyond requirements

## Individualized Path Opportunities

- CTE
- IB & CP Diploma
- PSEO
- AP
- Concurrent enrollment
- Magnet
- Athletics
- Activities & Clubs
- & more!

# Individual Learning Supports



**MPS recognizes that students learn in different ways and at different times.**

When Alex needs additional support or challenge, services are provided within the core experience and as supplemental instruction helping him stay on track, go deeper, and remain connected to his classroom and school community.

## **Enrichment**

- Opportunities to go deeper and extend learning
- Advanced challenges and interest-based exploration

## **Intervention**

- Targeted support to stay on track
- Responsive instruction based on student progress

## **Special Education**

- Instruction aligned to IEP goals
- Accommodations and specialized support within core learning

## **English Learner Services**

- Language support embedded in classroom instruction
- Development of academic language skills

# Designing a School for the MPS Student Experience

## High School

### Student Experience

#### The Core

Math, Science, English  
Language Arts, Social Studies,  
Physical Education & Health,  
*Personal Finance, Ethnic Studies*

#### Beyond the Core

Electives, IB, AVID, Early College  
Credit, CTE, Magnet, Athletics &  
Activities, & more!

### Just Right Staffing

**Predictable**

**Stable**

**Guaranteed  
MPS student  
experience**

### Class size

#### Class size caps

$\geq 70\%$  FRL: 37  
students class size

$< 70\%$  FRL: 38  
students class size

# School Size Required to Ensure MPS Student Experience

## 9-12 School

### Requirements

#### Class size caps

**>=70% FRL:**  
37 student class

**<=70% FRL:**  
38 student class

Math, Science, English Language Arts, Social Studies, Physical Education & Health, Personal Finance, Ethnic Studies

Electives & Individualized path opportunities (CTE, Magnet, Early College Credit, Athletics & Activities & more!)

#### School Size - 6 period day (LIMITED access to options in RED)

**>=70% FRL:**  
Min of 888 students

**<=70% FRL:**  
Min of 912 students

#### School Size - 7 period day (FULL access to options in RED)

**>=70% FRL:**  
Min of 1,036 students

**<=70% FRL:**  
Min of 1,064 students

# Questions and Discussion